

HEALTH
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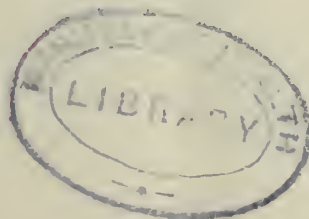
BLYTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

-- of the --

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1954



TO : THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BLYTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, My Ladies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1954, during which year, until 10th October, Dr. J. B. Kershaw was your Medical Officer of Health.

The Rates which are among the most sensitive indices to the social conditions of an area are -

1. The Infant Mortality Rate, which in Blyth Rural District is slightly greater than the average for England and Wales.
2. The Death Rate of children aged one to two years - nil here.
3. The Death Rate due to tuberculosis - nil here, and incidentally much reduced throughout the Country.
4. The Standardised (adjusted) Death Rate - which here is slightly less than that of England and Wales in general.

The year was marked by several items of importance -

- (i) Growth of the Council's Water Schemes continued.
- (ii) During late April, early May, an outbreak of gastro-enteritis occurred in Great Glemham Village County Primary School - diarrhoea and vomiting occurred and eighteen children were absent for some days.

The cause of the outbreak was undiscovered; it did not prove to be food poisoning.
- (iii) In early June, an outbreak of gastro-enteritis occurred in Snape. Several individuals - adults and children - developed abdominal pain and vomiting. The illness lasted twenty-four hours, followed by weakness. There was no evidence that food or water was the cause.
- (iv) In early July, an outbreak of "septic sore throat" occurred in the Walpole area. The maximum number of absentees from Cookley and Walpole County Primary School was ten on 6th July; first absence occurred on 29th June.

Measures taken were to advise that all septic skin lesions be covered and all children with nasal or aural discharges were excluded from school; ill children were referred to their general practitioners. The outbreak soon subsided.

- (v) Two cases of food poisoning occurred during the year -
 - (a) a solitary case was found in a man of 72, at the end of April. Investigation revealed no other case of suspicious illness.
 - (b) the other case was that of a man taken ill while travelling from Kings Lynn region.

During the year, two other important matters occurred -

- (i) On 5th July, 1954, the Government control of slaughtering ceased and private slaughtering was re-instituted. During the transition period, the Council was required to see that sufficient slaughtering accommodation was available for the needs of each district; a survey of slaughterhouses was carried out and consultations were arranged with the Organisations representing farmers and meat traders.

Applications for the licensing of slaughterhouses were received and all were granted.

- (ii) From 1st October, 1954, by Government Order it was made compulsory to provide caps or covers overlapping the lips of containers of pasteurised milk, and also milk distributors were required to put pasteurised milk into the containers in which it is to be delivered to the consumer at the premises at which it is pasteurised.

Regarding tuberculosis, the position remained virtually unchanged - fourteen new names were added to the register (new cases and persons coming to live in this area) and thirteen cases were removed from the register.

The information in this report on food premises, shops, factories and housing is compiled by the Sanitary Inspectors, to whom I am indebted.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

P. G. CANNON.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	98,184.
Registrar-General's estimate of population (mid 1954)	19,400.
Number of inhabited houses	6,868.
Rateable value	£73,776.
Product of penny rate	£286.

VITAL STATISTICS

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Live Births	140	141	281
(Illegitimate Births)	(5)	(7)	(12)

Illegitimacy Rate	= 42.7
Illegitimacy Rate (England and Wales)	= 46 per 1,000 live births.
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	= 14.5
Adjusted Birth Rate	= 17.1 (comparability factor 1.18)
Birth Rate (England and Wales)	= 15.2

Note on Adjusted Birth Rate.

Local Birth Rates are usually expressed in terms of population. These populations are estimated by the Registrar General and comprise persons of all ages, including many who quite obviously have no influence on the reproductive process. These latter do, however, affect the birth rate in that a preponderance of them in the population of an area tends to lower, and a small proportion of them to raise, the true rate. Considerable variation in the size of this proportion exists in different areas and it is therefore apparent that the elimination or standardisation of such a factor enables a truer comparison between areas.

A result on these lines is obtained through the issue by the Registrar General of a comparability factor for each area for use with birth rates. The adjusted birth rate resulting from the multiplication of the crude birth rate of an area by its comparability factor may be regarded as being comparable with the adjusted rate of any other area or with the crude rate for England and Wales.

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
Still Births (Legitimate)	2	4	6
(Illegitimate)	-	1	1
	2	5	7
Still birth Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)	= 24.3		
Still Birth Rate (England and Wales)	= 24.0		

MATERNAL MORTALITY : NIL.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age (Illegitimate)	4 -	4 -	8 -

Infant mortality rate = 28.5

Infant mortality rate (England and Wales) = 25.5 (lowest ever recorded
in England and Wales)

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS:-

1 female at 2 days - precipitate labour, atelectasis, pulmonary
1 male at 1 hour - Prematurity. haemorrhage.
1 female at 5 months - Congenital fibrocystic disease of the pancreas.
1 male at 11 days - Prematurity (birth weight 2 lbs. 5 ozs.)
1 female at 3 hours - Erythroblastosis foetalis.
1 male at 8 hours - Prematurity (gestation period 25 weeks).
1 male at 1 day - Prematurity (birth weight 3 lbs.)
1 female at 4 months - Acute cardiac failure due to coarctation of
the aorta.

DEATHS - ALL AGES

MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
147	129	276

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population = 14.2

Adjusted Death Rate = 10.5 (Comparability
factor 0.74)

Death Rate (England and Wales) = 11.3

NOTE:

This Comparability Factor is obtained and used in a similar way
to that for births.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (other)	-	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH (Continued).

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus..	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	8	20
Diabetes.....	1	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system..	16	20	36
Coronary disease, angina	20	12	32
Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
Other heart disease	49	42	91
Other circulatory disease	4	8	12
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Bronchitis	4	1	5
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	-	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	1	-	1
Nephritis or nephrosis	2	3	5
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-	4
Congenital malformations	-	1	1
Other defined and illdefined diseases	19	13	32
Motor vehicle accidents	-	1	1
All other accidents	4	2	6
Suicide	1	1	2
	147	124	271

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS.

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Population	19,270	19,460	19,460	19,430	19,350	19,400
No: of Inhabited houses	6,391	6,472	6,530	6,675	6,760	6,868
No: of Live Births.....	313	285	316	281	295	281
Birth Rate (crude).....	16.2	14.6	16.2	14.5	15.2	14.5
No: of still births ...	7	8	6	8	8	7
Maternal Mortality	0	0	0	0	0	0
Infantile mortality						
Rate.....	32.0	21.5	25.3	32.0	13.5	28.5
(No: of deaths)	(10)	(6)	(8)	(9)	(4)	(8)
No: of deaths (all ages) ...	241	279	283	259	259	276
Death Rate (crude)	12.5	14.3	14.5	13.3	13.3	14.2

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following cases of infectious disease were notified during the year:-

	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Scarlet fever	3	6	9
Whooping Cough	58	47	105
Measles	64	57	121
Acute Pneumonia	6	2	8
Erysipelas	2	-	2
Food poisoning	2	-	2
Puerperal pyrexia	-	6	6
Infective Hepatitis.....	-	1	1
	135	119	254

The whooping cough cases occurred fairly evenly throughout the year. Practically all the measles occurred in the first half of the year. Five of the cases of pneumonia occurred in the first quarter.

NOTE ON DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following are the figures for Blyth Rural District :-

During 1954, 282 primary immunisations were carried out at the child welfare clinics and by the general practitioners.

The ages of the children immunised are as follows:-

Children born in 1954	-	44	were immunised.
1953	-	169	do.
1952	-	37	do.
1951	-	12	do.
1950	-	2	do.
1949	-	3	do.
1948	-	7	do.
1947	-	3	do.
1946	-	-	do.
1945	-	2	do.
1944	-	2	do.
- Over school age	-	1	do.

During the same year 178 booster doses were given.

During 1953, 232 children had primary immunisations.

The importance of immunisation against diphtheria is to be stressed as although there is a much reduced incidence it still does occur and will increase if immunisation is not carried out on a large enough scale.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough can be carried out by three injections (one at monthly intervals) of the one material and gives little or no ill-effects. It can be started at the age of 3-4 months.

Vaccination is still recommended in all infants, particularly the males. With new technique there should be no harmful effects to the child.

TUBERCULOSIS

	M A L E S		F E M A L E S		TOTAL
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at beginning of year.	35	13	19	11	78
Number of cases added during year.	7	1	6	-	14
Number of cases removed during the year.	8	3	1	1	13
Number of cases on Register at end of year.	34	11	24	10	79
<u>CASES ADDED TO THE REGISTER</u>			<u>CASES REMOVED FROM THE REGISTER</u>		
New notifications	=	10	Recovered	=	7
Removals from other areas	=	4	Removed to other areas	=	4
			Proved to be non-tuberculous	=	2
		14			13

1. HOUSING.

(a)	Total number of houses inspected during the year for all purposes	241
(b)	Total number of houses in which sanitary defects were found	126
(c)	Number of houses in respect of which informal notices have been served	51
(d)	Revisits	67
(e)	No. rendered fit :	
	(1) Informally	88
	(2) Formally - Public Health Acts	1
	(3) Formally - Housing Acts	-
	(4) No. Demolition Orders secured	-
	(5) No. dwellings included in Clearance Orders secured	-
	(6) No. demolished under (4) above	-
	No. demolished under (5) above	-
	(7) No. of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made	5
	(8) No. of cases of overcrowding known to exist at end of 1954.	7
	(9) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(10)	Total No. new houses erected :	
	(i) by Local Authority	94
	(ii) by private enterprise	19
(f)	Number of houses inspected under and for the purposes of Sections 11 and 18 of the Act (Article 31 - Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925).	-
(g)	Number of houses which are considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	-

- (h) Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of closing orders. -
- (i) Number of Closing Orders made. -
- (j) Number of Houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of closing orders. -
- (k) Number of Houses which, after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation. -
- (l) General character of defects found to exist : -
- (m) Any other particulars with regard to the work of inspection under this section : -

2. FOOD PREMISES.

The number of food premises in the area and type of business (approx).

Grocery and General	80
Bakers	5
Butchers	13
Public Houses selling Ice Cream	4
Ice Cream only	2
Cafes	8
Fishmongers	3
Confectionery	3
Greengrocers	5

TOTAL 123

Milk Dealers.

Eighteen dealers were registered for the sale of specially designated milk.

(a) <u>Dairies.</u> No. of inspections made	3
<u>Bakehouses.</u> No. of inspections made	2
<u>Ice Cream Premises.</u> No. of inspections made	4
<u>Other places where food is prepared.</u> No. of inspections made	10
TOTAL ..	<u>19</u>

(b)	No. found to be unsatisfactory	..	...	..	...	6
(c)	No. rendered satisfactory	...	..	...	..	-
	(1) Informally	..	...	..	...	-
	(2) Formally	..	...	..	...	-
(d)	No. of premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938:					
	(1) Ice Cream - Manufacture	..	...	..	...	1
	Storage or Sale only	...	..	...		51
	(2) Sausages, preserved food, etc.	...	..	...		1
(e)	No. of Ice Cream samples taken for bacteriological examination					-
	No. of samples found to be unsatisfactory					-
(f)	No. of licensed slaughter houses					8

3. FOOD INSPECTION.

(a) Meat Inspected :

Is 100% inspection being carried out? Yes.

Slaughterhouses - Carcasses inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	204	12	17	28	907
Number inspected	204	12	17	28	907
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u> Whole carcasses condemned.	1	1	3	2	23
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	14	2	1	2	52

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	7 $\frac{1}{3}$	25	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 $\frac{1}{3}$	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
<u>Tuberculosis only</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ..	6	2	-	-	27
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3	17	-	-	3 $\frac{1}{3}$
Brief analysis of "other causes"	Peritonitis, pneumonia, oedema, abscesses, bruising, fever, fractures, nephritis, cavernous angioma, liver fluke, Johnes disease, immaturity, retention cysts, emaciation, actinomycosis, arthritis.				

Special examination of stocks or consignments of food was necessary
as follows :-

Food contaminated by creosote on rail, and condemned at
Framlingham Station - per British Railways.

Total quantity - 224 lbs.

Condemned - 4 - 56 lb. boxes of Australian Sultanas. (224 lbs).

Inspection on request - excluding quantities given above :

Mutton	..	..	..	..	..	16 lb.	-	ozs.
Beef	..	..	..	..	..	20 lb.	-	ozs.
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	..	2 lb.	12	ozs.
Plum Pudding	..	..	..	..	..	18 lb.	2	ozs.
Mincemeat	..	..	..	..	..		14 $\frac{1}{2}$	ozs.
Evaporated Milk	..	..	..	..	..		7	ozs.
Condensed Milk	..	..	..	..	..		14	ozs.
Tinned Meat	..	..	..	..	..	40 lb.	12	ozs.

Carried forward .. 99 lb. 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.

Inspection on request

Brought forward						99 lb.	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Beans	..	..	..	..	..	1 lb.	12 ozs.
Peas	..	..	..	..	..		15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.
Sandwich spread	..	..	..	..	..		4 ozs.
Soup	..	..	..	..	..	1 lb.	- ozs.
Pineapple	..	..	..	..	..	3 lb.	8 ozs.
Plums	...	..	..	..	..	2 lb.	8 ozs.
Blackcurrants	..	..	..	..	..	2 lb.	- ozs.
Peach Pulp	..	..	..	..	..	97 lb.	8 ozs.
Apricots	..	..	..	..	..	14 lb.	- ozs.
TOTAL						222 lb.	9 ozs.

Method of Disposal of Condemned Food :-

Meat : The Suffolk Fat & Bone Co.

Other Foods : Refuse tips.

3. WATER.

No. of Samples taken :-

Public Water Supplies (Mains)	..	..	..	..	..	7
Private Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	14
For Nitrate Analysis	..	..	..	..	..	99
Under 20 p.p.m.	..	..	56			
20 p.p.m. and over	..	..	43			
Visits in connection with Water shortage	..	..	..	..	..	10

4. PUBLIC HEALTH (GENERAL)

Moveable Dwellings.

No. of site licences - -	No. of Individual Licences	-
No. of Inspections during the year (a) Sites		-
	(b) Dwellings	-
No. of contraventions remedied	.. .. .	-

Rats & Mice Destruction.

No. of Inspections	:	Notified	..	..	...	..	..	141
		Otherwise	..	..	..	..	..	3303
Rate Infestations	:	Major	..	..	..	..	..	342
		Minor	..	..	..	..	..	664
Mice only	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
No. treated	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	1040
No. of Block treatments	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	139

No. of premises treated	:	(a)	Dwellinghouses	..	..	516
		(b)	Other premises	..	..	21

Disinfection, etc.

No. of premises disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	-
No. of premises disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	19

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Frequency of collection	..	..	..	..	Weekly or fortnightly.
Method of disposal.	..	..	..	..	To refuse tips.

5. SHOPS ACT, 1950 (Section 38)

No. of shops inspected	..	..	..	..	..	13
Contravention found	..	..	..	..	..	4
Contravention remedied	..	..	..	..	..	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Factories with Mechanical Power	..	..	..	..	73
Factories without Mechanical Power	..	..	..	..	11
Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	9

TOTAL . . . 93 13.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

No. of Factories and Workshops inspected	..	..	..	..	13
Cases in which defects were found	..	..	..	..	3
Referred by H.M. Inspector	..	..	..	..	1
No. of cases in which defects were remedied	..	..	..	1	
No. of written notices	..	..	..	..	-
No. of Outworkers	..	..	..	..	2

1. Housing Survey :

(a)	Total No. of Houses inspected during the year for all purposes	..	..	..	..	..	..	241
(b)	Total No. of houses found to be unsatisfactory	..	..	126				
(c)	No. of houses still occupied for human habitation in respect of which demolition or clearance orders have been made	..	..	..	..	..	..	64

II. Housing Repairs :

A. Informal.

No. of dwellinghouses rendered fit as a result of informal action	88
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Housing Repairs :

B. Formal - Public Health Acts.

No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served -

No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices

(a) By owners -

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners -

C. Formal - Housing Acts.

No. of dwellings in respect of which notices were served .. -

No. of dwellings rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners 1

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners -

III. Clearance Areas.

	No. of dwelling houses demolished.	No. of houses included in Clearance Orders made during the year.
Areas coloured pink	-	-
Areas coloured grey	-	-

IV. Individual Houses.

No. of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders were made -

No. of dwellings demolished as a result of Demolition Orders -

No. of dwellings in respect of which or part of which Closing Orders were made (Section 12 Housing Act, 1936) .. -
(5 under Sec. 10 of L.G. (Misc. P) Act, 1953).

V. Provision of new Housing Accommodation.

		By Local Authority		By Private Enterprise	
		Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary
1.	No. of houses in respect of which tenders were approved by Ministry during 1954.	44	-		
2.	No. of houses completed during the year.	94	-	16	-
	Conversions, etc. (incl. 2-1 & 1-2)			12 = 2 additional houses.	1
3.	No. of houses in course of construction on 31.12.54.	22	-	16	-
	Conversions, etc. * (1-2)			2 *	2
4 .	Total No. of houses owned by Council on 31.12.54.	842	50 Prefabs. 59 Huts		

(ii) Housing Act, 1949. Part II.

A. Improvements

Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were (a) made during 1954.

(b) approved by Council during 1954.

B. Provision of dwellings by conversion

Number of dwellings in respect of which applications for grant were (a) made during 1954.

(b) approved by Council during 1954.

By Local Authority.	By Private Enterprise.
-	73
-	73
-	8
-	6

VII. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV - Overcrowding.

Number of dwellinghouses overcrowded at the end of the year 7

Number of cases of overcrowding reported during the year 4

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 4

Rent Increase.

No. of applications received for Certificates of Disrepair (Sec. 26 - Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) 1

No. of certificates issued 1

Guarantees for House Purchase.

No. of applications received for Guarantees (Sec. 5 Housing Act, 1949)	Nil.
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No. of Guarantees issued	Nil.
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Postponed Demolition etc. (Sections 2 - 5 Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954)

No. of houses acquired by Local authority (Sec. 3)	.	..	-
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No. of houses retained (Sec. 4)	-
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No. of houses where demolition is postponed (Sec. 2)	..	-
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No. of houses where demolition is postponed (Sec. 5)	..	-
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